

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No. 1/2022

We will remember them...



Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. Committee

President: Ross Butler (PH: 6243 6862)

Vice-President: Penny O'Brien (PH: 0439 379 640)

Secretary: Susan Gardner (PH: 0418 289 732)

Treasurer: Noeline Heaven (PH: 6243 9216)

Archive Officer/Display Manager: Ann Curran

Committee: Geoffrey Cashion, Dorothy Cuthill, Margaret Harrison, Bernadette Peck, Kathie Schramm, Philip Sweetingham & Alan Townsend

Newsletter/Publishing Sub-Committee: Rebecca Johnson, Penny O'Brien

& Reg Watson

Facebook Administrator: Fran Read

Public Officer: Mr Ross Butler

LATEST NEWS

We apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter to you.

We started the year without a January meeting due to the Covid situation but are now up and running again. The February and March meetings went well and we are pleased that new people continue to join us for meetings. The March meeting included our AGM and we are pleased that Ross Butler has taken on the role of President and Susan Gardner the position of Secretary.

We would also like to thank Fran Read for taking on the position of Facebook Administrator. Our Facebook reach has grown considerably of late and the help Fran is providing is greatly appreciated.

We are now based at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, and we are very grateful to

Diane and the Library volunteers for this arrangement.

On **Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings** an L.H.S. member is available at the Library should you need us. At other times it can be arranged by appointment. You can either contact a Committee member (see phone numbers above) or you can email us at **lindisfarne.history@gmail.com**.

MEMEBERSHIP FEES DUE

It is that time again – membership fees are now due.

Fees are \$25 for singles and \$40 per couple.

(CASH ONLY)

Please see our Treasurer Noeline. Noeline can be contacted on 6243 9216.

Front Cover: Lindisfarne Cenotaph, ANZAC Park, 25th April 2022.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I thank members for the honour of election to the office of President for 2022.

It was not without some trepidation that I accepted.

I certainly do not lack any passion for Lindisfarne as a delightful haven for my declining years. I often reflect, also, on my great good fortune in having spent the first nineteen years of my life in such a safe place for children to roam abroad on foot or on two wheels. And then in my later youth to enjoy the opportunities provided through local football, rowing and sailing clubs.

I am conscious of the fundamental place of computer-based communicational tools for the smooth operation of all organizations, big or small. My problem is that, at present, my skills there are, to say the least, deficient. I trust that other skills and experience acquired as a member of many varied executive committees during my working life will help me to make a worthwhile contribution.

In this thirtieth anniversary year of our Society, I acknowledge with gratitude the tireless and outstanding work of past Executive Committees. The commitment, skills and passion of these members for Lindisfarne, and history in general, laid the foundation of our current prominent social status. This, of course, has been marked significantly by our invitation to Government House by Tasmania's Governor, Her Excellency Barbara Baker.

At its last meeting our Executive Committee was pleased to recognize the service since the Society's

inception of Dorothy Cuthill. It was resolved to offer her Life Membership which she accepted.

Ross Butler, President, L.H.S.

L.H.S. Society Meetings 2022

Friday April 29th @ 7.30pm

Monday May 30th @ 2pm

(30th Anniversary Celebration)

Monday June 27th @ 2pm

Monday July 25th @ 2pm

Monday August 29th @ 2pm

Monday September 26th @ 2pm

Friday October 28th @ 7.30pm

Monday November 28th @ 2pm

All meetings to be held at the **Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne**, unless stated otherwise.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no night meetings during the cold Winter months.

We hope this will please our members? However, we are aware that this may not suit everybody so we will monitor the situation.

**You can contact the Society at:
lindisfarne.history@gmail.com**

REV KNOPWOOD'S TOMB

by

Reg. A. Watson.



The Rev Robert (Bobby) Knopwood arrived with David Collins in February 1804 to the settlement at Risdon Cove. Together with John Bowen they were the first white men to climb Mount Direction. There it still stands, although looking forlorn, at Rokeby (see photo above). The tombstone is of the first Christian Minister in Tasmania, the Rev. Bobby Knopwood, Anglican priest.

Rev Knopwood lived on the Western Shore ministering until 1826. Then land was selected for St Matthew's Church and cemetery at Rokeby with the first burials taking place the following year. Knopwood died in Clarence Plains in 1838 and

asked to be buried in a common grave. St Matthews's Church, sadly for Knopwood, was not erected until after his death.



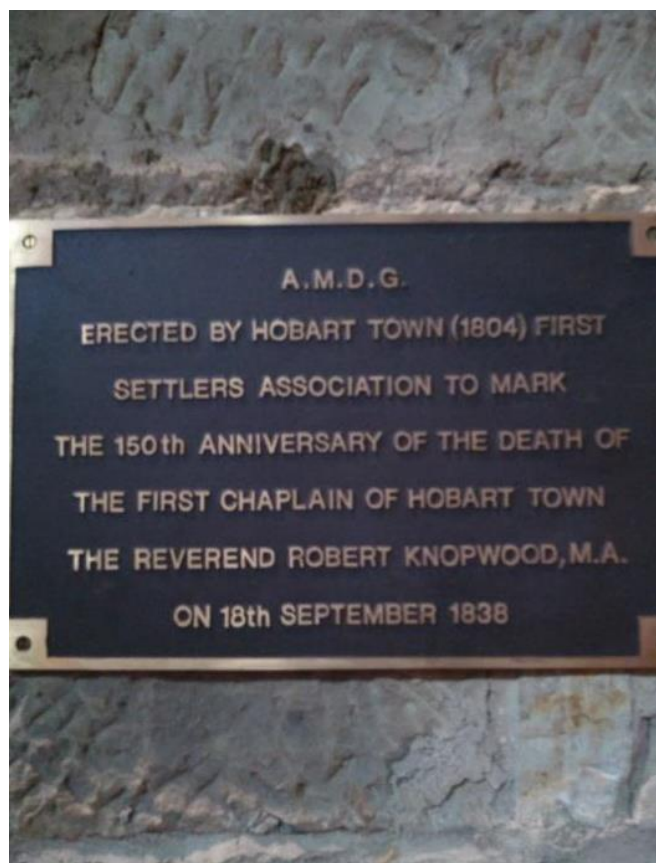
St Matthew's Church, Rokeby

Now an imposing obelisk is erected on his grave, initiated by Elizabeth Sarah Stanfield, daughter of Knopwood's ward Betsy Mack in great appreciation of his service to her mother. Today, the monument and indeed the church look worse for wear. St Matthew's is now closed. In 2005 there was a bicentennial project to conserve Knopwood's tomb. Even so, time, because of weather and the elements, have taken their toll.

The tomb is a monument to a very important historical character in our history. It consists of a sandstone obelisk on a pedestal which is mounted on a stepped, square platform.

The cast iron fence is believed to date from the 1850s. (The grave was originally surmounted by a wooden fence.) The inscription is in both Latin and English.

One wonders of the future of both the monument and church - vital links to our very colourful past.



Plaque to Knopwood at St David's Cathedral, Hobart

WILLIAM HUDDLESTONE

(1858-1915)

If you visit the Library in the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre in Lincoln Street, you will see hanging on the wall an oil painting, entitled "Lindisfarne Bay, 1891" by artist William Huddlestone. This lovely painting was recently donated to the L.H.S. The owner sent it to us from Canberra after the death of a parent - *she believed it should come home!*

The painting was in much need of repair as it was damaged by tobacco and cigar smoke, and it also had a small tear in the fabric. Society member Marie Howard-Dowlman, Photographic Restorationist, repaired the painting as a donation to the historical society, for which we are most grateful.

What we know about the painting was that it was entered, along with three others, in the Sydney Art Exhibition of 1895. All were sold from the show, though unfortunately we do not have no details on the other paintings. **And what of the artist, William Huddlestone?** Well sadly, there is little information on him. Artist biographies are very, very brief, however researching old newspapers has given us some rather interesting information.

William Huddlestone supposedly hailed from Manchester in England, with a birthyear attributed to 1858. He arrived in Australia around 1890. Reports of him exhibiting paintings in Sydney date from December 1890 and state that he was newly arrived in the colony. Obviously, he must have lived for a time in Hobart. It is believed the Huddlestone family owned a shack (or holiday home) at Lindisfarne where he must have been staying in 1891 to complete his painting of Lindisfarne Bay.

Some years prior to his move to Australia Huddlestone was said to have been a war correspondent (war artist) for "The Graphic", one of London's illustrated newspapers during the first Zulu War in South Africa (1879).

Another claim to fame for him was the numerous illustrations he drew for William Gillies' "First Studies in Plant Life in Australiasia" and "First



The painting, "Lindisfarne Bay, 1891", by William Huddlestone
Generously restored by Marie Howard-Dowlman

Studies in Insect Life in Australasia". The author clearly stating in the preface that, *"the drawings are from the pencil of Mr Wm Huddlestone."*

It appears that wherever he went Huddlestone sold his works along the way and took on commission pieces, which no doubt helped finance his lifestyle.

He was also reportedly a member of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts.

William Huddlestone is believed to have died in 1915.



FIG 117
Sturt's desert pea.

Huddlestone's illustration of Sturt's Desert Pea, taken from "First Studies in Plant life in Australasia."

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER – APRIL

The guest speaker at our April meeting will be:

Dr Dianne Snowden, AM

Dianne is a well-known Historian, Heritage Consultant, Genealogist and Author.

She also has a particular interest in convict women and their children.

Dianne will speak to us on:

The History of the Royal Agricultural Show

WHEN: Friday 29th April @ 7.30pm

WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St, Lindisfarne.

All are welcome – bring a friend!

Supper will be available.

OTAGO BAY AND JOSEPH CONRAD

by

Reg. A. Watson

Otago Bay, situated on the way to Old Beach from Risdon on the East Derwent Highway, was named after the 367 ton vessel *Otago*. Built in Glasgow in 1869 this vessel was once under the command of famous author, Joseph Conrad (1857-1927).



The vessel *Otago* in her full glory

Conrad was born in the Ukraine of Polish nobility descent. He could not speak English until he was twenty years of age. He certainly made up with his numerous adventure stories, such as “*Lord Jim*” and “*Nostromo*”. Many of his novels were taken from actual experiences he had on land and sea. He commanded the clipper barque *Otago* on two voyages after the captain died. He was very fond of the vessel and is contained in his work, “*Shadow Line*”.

Otago began its Tasmanian life in 1900 when it was used on the River Derwent as a coal hulk. In 1931 it was bought at auction by Mr H. Douglas and was taken to the present site where it was broken up. Much of it was sold to the Japanese as

scrap metal. Part of the *Otago* is still rusting away in the bay.

Its anchor is now on display at Bicheno while its companionway superstructure can be seen at the Marine Museum in Hobart. There is an interpretation board at the bay.



Otago Bay and what is left of the *Otago* today

Tasmania has another strong connection with an English author, Anthony Trollope (1815-1882), best known for his novel “*Barchester Towers*” (published in 1857). His cousin, the Rev William Trollope was once the minister for St Mary’s Church (Anglican) in Kempton. He is also buried there.

The author himself, Anthony Trollope, toured Tasmania in 1872 for his book “Australia and New Zealand” where he praised the state as being the prettiest of all the colonies. – Ed.



Reg
Watson

Reg Watson on Community Radio – 96.1FM

Rich & Colourful Tasmanian History

Reg's show is aired on Community Radio 96.1 FM once a month, on the third Saturday, from 3pm. The programme consists of interesting historical snippets, interviews, book reviews, notices of what is going on around town in art and historic circles and great music. Be sure to tune in!

Contact: regawatson@gmail.com

ALSO: Don't miss Reg's history column in the 'Eastern Shore Star' monthly newspaper.



BOOK SALE



SATURDAY
14th, May 2022
9.00am to 1.00pm

COVID-19 restrictions apply

Need books—come and browse
Our range of fiction and non-fiction

Check out—the Dogs Home stalls & the
Lindisfarne Historical Society display

**LINDISFARNE COMMUNITY
ACTIVITY CENTRE LIBRARY**

37A LINCOLN STREET

L.H.S. 30th ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATE!



**The Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. invites you to join us
for our 30th Anniversary celebration.**

WHEN: Monday 30th May at 2pm

**WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre,
37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne**



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This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

Member for Franklin



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